

Message Text

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ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/ARP:FMDICKMAN:BH

APPROVED BY NEA:ALATHERTON,JR.

L/NEA:KHUFFMAN

H:RFLATEN

S/S: FVORTIZ

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 236456

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, SA, US, MASS, EAID, USSAEC

SUBJECT: CASE AMENDMENT TO FOREIGN ASSISTANCE ACT

1. DURING HIS MEETING WITH PRINCE SAUD EVENING OF OCTOBER 1 IN WASHINGTON, ASSISTANT SECRETARY ATHERTON DESCRIBED THE AMENDMENT WHICH HAD BEEN INTRODUCED BY SENATOR CASE TO FOREIGN ASSISTANCE ACT AND WHICH HAD THAT DAY BEEN APPROVED BY SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE. MR. ATHERTON EXPLAINED THAT AMENDMENT HAD COME UP SUDDENLY AND UNEXPECTEDLY, BUT HE WANTED TO ALERT PRINCE SAUD BEFORE HE READ ABOUT IT IN THE PAPERS.

2. CASE AMENDMENT WOULD REQUIRE THAT ANY PERSONNEL ASSIGNMENTS UNDER FOREIGN ASSISTANCE ACT OR FOREIGN MILITARY SALES ACT BE MADE WITHOUT REGARD TO RACE, RELIGION, NATIONAL ORIGIN, OR SEX. IF A COUNTRY OBJECTED TO PRESENCE OF USG EMPLOYEE ON FMS OR FAA PROGRAM ON ABOVE GROUNDS, NO FMS SALES OR ASSISTANCE UNDER FOREIGN ASSISTANCE ACT COULD BE PROVIDED BY US IN THAT COUNTRY.

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(FYI: REIMBURSABLE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE BEING PROVIDED

SAG UNDER JOINT ECONOMIC COMMISSION AUSPICES IS BASED ON LEGAL AUTHORITY IN SECTION 607 OF THE FOREIGN ASSISTANCE ACT. HOWEVER, AID HAS TRADITIONALLY REGARDED 607 PROJECTS AS NOT CONSTITUTING "ASSISTANCE" UNDER FAA. END FYI.)

MR. ATHERTON NOTED THAT BILL MUST BE APPROVED ON FLOOR OF SENATE AND, BECAUSE NO SIMILAR PROVISION EXISTS IN HOUSE VERSION, IT WOULD ALSO HAVE TO BE AGREED UPON IN SENATE-HOUSE CONFERENCE. SEVERAL IMPORTANT STEPS REMAINED BEFORE THE AMENDMENT COULD BECOME LAW AND ADMINISTRATION WOULD MAKE A MAJOR EFFORT TO REMOVE OR PROVIDE FLEXIBILITY IN APPLICATION OF AMENDMENT. MR. ATHERTON OBSERVED THAT IT REFLECTED A PROBLEM WHERE US LAW AND REGULATIONS GOVERNING EMPLOYMENT PRACTICES OF US GOVERNMENT AND USG CONTRACTORS CONFLICT WITH SAUDI PRACTICES.

3. PRINCE SAUD ASKED WHAT IMPLICATIONS MIGHT BE IF AMENDMENT BECAME LAW. MR. ATHERTON SAID THAT WHILE PRESENT TERMS OF AMENDMENT NOT COMPLETELY CLEAR, IT WOULD APPEAR TO MEAN THAT IF USG UNDER A FMS OR SECTION 607 PROGRAM WANTED TO ASSIGN USG EMPLOYEE OF JEWISH FAITH AND HE UNABLE TO GET VISA, USG WOULD NO LONGER BE ABLE TO CONTINUE FMS PROGRAMS WITH SAG, INCLUDING CORPS OF ENGINEERS ACTIVITIES.

4. SAUD SAID THAT SAUDI ARABIA DOES NOT DENY VISAS TO JEWS BUT IS AFFECTED BY FACT THAT ISRAEL PROCLAIMS ALL JEWS TO BE CITIZENS OF ISRAEL. FOR ITS OWN SECURITY, SAUDI ARABIA HAS DENIED ENTRY TO ISRAELI CITIZENS. SAUD SAID THAT IF ALTERNATIVE WAS FOR SAG TO CHANGE ITS PRESENT PROCEDURES TO MEET US LEGISLATION, IT WOULD MEAN AN END TO MILITARY SUPPLY AND TRAINING RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES.

5. MR. ATHERTON SAID HE APPRECIATED RECEIVING PRINCE SAUD'S FRANK VIEWS AND THESE WOULD BE HELPFUL TO OUR DELIBERATIONS. WE WOULD MAKE A MAJOR EFFORT TO REMOVE THE AMENDMENT OR PROVIDE FLEXIBILITY IN APPLYING IT BECAUSE IT IGNORES THE IMPLICATIONS FOR OUR OVERALL NATIONAL INTERESTS.

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6. PRINCE SAUD LATER REQUESTED NEA/ARP FOR TEXT OF AMENDMENT, AND THIS WAS FURNISHED HIM BEFORE HE LEFT WASHINGTON AFTERNOON OF OCTOBER 2. TEXT OF AMENDMENT BEING SENT BY SEPTTEL.
KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

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Draft Date: 03 OCT 1975
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: johnsorg
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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ISecure: 1
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Margaret P. Grafeld
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